

## Amendments to the specification

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

### ABSTRACT

To prevent system ~~crashes~~crashes, as by denial-of-service attacks, of TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) networks, this invention regulates the volume of TCP connection requests that await service at a TCP/IP connection control table. For this purpose, the usage of the system is monitored on a dynamic basis, the time-out value  $T_{ho}$  is dynamically computed, and requests that ~~that~~ have been awaiting service for a period of time that exceeds  $T_{ho}$  are removed from the TCP/IP connection control table.